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course as a preliminary to a more advanced one, the subjects can be treated in a more general and advanced form without, however, smothering the general principles in a multitude of details. One peculiar feature of this book which would probably attract the attention of a reader is the unusual method of introducing various subjects by what might be called a poetical reference to some action in the world at large as a basis to explain some chemical fact or hypothesis. While this appears, to the chemist who has been trained to reason on the basis of observed facts and to keep away as far as possible from unprofitable speculation, to be an unscientific method of treating the subject and one usually more suitable for primary grades, it may have its value, just as a study of models enables one to grasp more clearly the conception of stereochemistry and the configuration of molecules. On the whole, therefore, the reviewer considers that this book should be of value in introducing a class of girls to the part which chemistry plays in the affairs of the world surrounding them.

J. L. G.

*Die Normalen Asymmetrien des Menschlichen Körpers.* By Professor Dr. E. GAUPP. Pp. i + 59, mit 8 Textfiguren. Jena, G. Fischer. 1909.

This little but useful volume forms a fourth part of a "Collection of Anatomical and Physiological Publications" written by Professors Gaupp and W. Nagel.

The present work is to a large extent a continuation of Professor Gaupp's former study concerning the right-handedness of man (No. I. of the same series of publications). It summarizes in a somewhat detailed manner the various observations recorded in anatomical and anthropological literature on such asymmetries of the different parts of the human body which are not due to disease, and at the same time it presents a thorough critical consideration of the many causes of these various inequalities.

A large part of the brochure is devoted to the asymmetries of the spine and to those of the limbs. The treatment of the inequalities

in the different other parts of the osseous system is less comprehensive, and there is a lack of individual investigations by the author. Notwithstanding this the work will be very useful for reference to the student of the subject with which it deals, and will be further valuable by its large bibliography.

There could, perhaps, be found some fault with the term "normalen" in the title, for strictly speaking there are no *normal* asymmetries; but the author employed this term in want of something more expressive to denote that he is not dealing with the effects of pathological conditions.

A. HRDLÍČKA

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

*The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Vol. VII., No. 4, issued March 25, contains the following: "The Purin Ferments of the Rat," by Alice Rohdé and Walter Jones. Investigation of extracts of the tissues of rats failed to demonstrate either adenase or xanthoöxidase. Rats' urine, however, contains uric acid. The origin of this uric acid must be attributed either to the action of purin ferments *in vivo* which do not exhibit themselves in organ extracts or to processes which do not involve the known purin ferments. For the latter explanation, much experimental proof exists. "On the Salts of Cytosine, Thymine and Uracil," by Victor C. Myers. A description of the preparation and some of the properties of the sodium, potassium, mercury and lead salts of thymine and uracil. "The Presence of Iodine in the Human Pituitary Gland," by H. Gideon Wells. Analysis of human pituitary glands taken from subjects who had not received iodides while in the hospital failed to show iodine in the gland: similar analyses of glands from subjects who had received iodides revealed iodine in the pituitary gland. Hence the normal presence of iodine in the gland is unproved. "A Note on the Physiological Behavior of Iminoallantoin and Uroxic Acid," by Tadasu Saiki. Elimination of purins in the urine is unaffected, excretion of oxalic acid is increased by the administration of either of the above-mentioned substances. "Nylander's Reaction